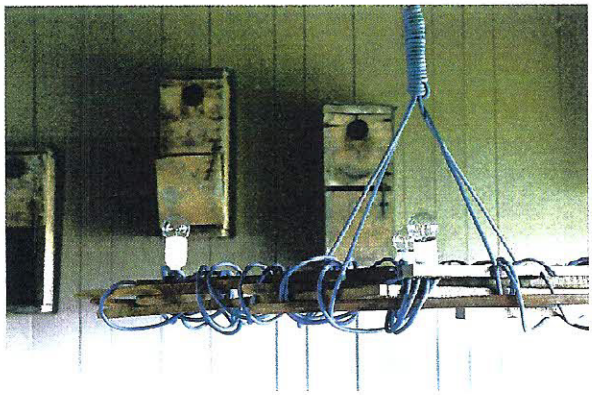
Interior designer Carter Kay found the living room's two antique rattan chairs, covered in hair-on-hide, at South of Market in Atlanta. The sectional, from Lee Industries, is covered in denim by Arabel Fabrics to make it especially kid-friendly, and the rug, from Keivan Oriental Rugs, is a contemporary riff on a fence-inspired pattern. The wooden horse cutouts are from Bobo Intriguing Objects.



How to Find the Good Stuff

Designer Carter Kay shares her best advice for tracking down the perfect art and antiques.

SHOP LOCALLY "We always go to the little flea market in Ennis, and we find more treasures there than you can imagine," Kay says. By scouring local boutiques and markets, you're more likely to find pieces that are evocative of your home's history and setting.

BE PATIENT "At the flea market, we move through a lot of piles of comic books and old toys to find that one great accessory," Kay says. Even if you plan to visit more refined antique stores, wait until you can devote a whole morning—or better yet, an entire day—to your search.

CALL AHEAD "Sometimes, to save time, I give a call to the shop owner and tell him what I'm looking for," Kay says. If you can't stop dreaming about a Biedermeier chest or a pair of Louis XVI chairs, ring your favorite antique shops and ask for help tracking down your heart's desire. Kay sometimes checks online antiques marketplaces, such as 1stdibs.com and thehighboy.com, where she can easily search for pieces by era or style.

"It's steel, and it does not budge," Kay says of the dining table from Go Home Ltd. "I was thinking of the grandkids: It's sturdy and easy to clean." FACING PAGE, FROM TOP: Guests gather in the main house for most meals, so the kitchen is intentionally small. Its open shelves are made from antique wood. "You just need one splash of color in such a small room," Kay says of the colorful vintage rug. The breakfast nook's distinctive light fixture was custom-made by an Atlanta artist and purchased through South of Market.

A colorful scarab print, discovered at A. Tyner Antiques in Atlanta, is a playful addition to the second master bedroom. The vintage chest (from Provenance Antiques in Atlanta and a complement to the chest in the other master bedroom) rests atop an animal-print rug. The ladder is a convenient rack for hanging scarves or magazines. "I buy ladders whenever I find them," Kay says.

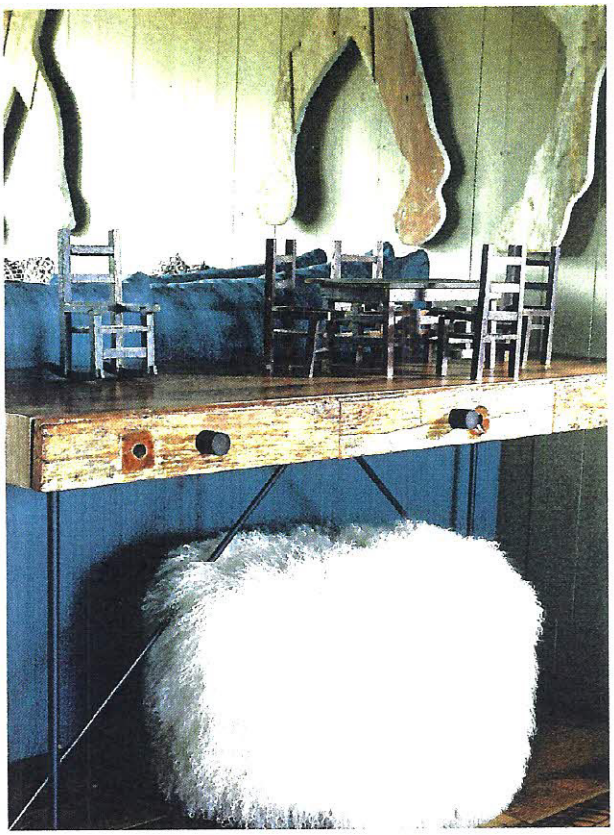
BELOW, LEFT: A bedroom gets an infusion of fun from the "Birds on a Wire" series by Atlanta artist Corinne Adams. The bed is from Environment Furniture, and the vintage adjustable side tables with triangular metal tops are made from machinery springs. BELOW, RIGHT: Whimsical antique chairs from BoBo Intriguing Objects hang as artwork over an antique chest from Provenance Antiques in Atlanta.

But Kay did have a little fun with what is perhaps the West's most identifiable design element.

In one of the bedrooms, white resin deer heads with colorful antlers are mounted in frames made from old barn boards. Cheeky and whimsical, the heads stand sentry over a pair of beds and a turquoise cabinet enclosed with chicken wire—"so you can see where you put your things," Kay says.

The mix of old and new continues in other spaces: A pair of curvy antique chairs are suspended over a vintage pine chest in one bedroom. In another, guests find "Birds on a Wire," a colorful series of mixed-media art pieces, which Kay chose for their bright hues and nod to nature. Across the room, an old canvas print of a scarab hangs above another antique pine dresser. Even the small kitchen gets a flash of whimsy from a trio of rusted metal fish, found at the Ennis flea market and hung from an old hand-tied fly near the open shelves. A vivid rug with a fish motif, another retro find, adds a theme-appropriate pop of color to the floor.

Though the home showcases antiques and art in every nook and cranny, it's hardly a museum. "People think that antiques are very serious. They can be, but the bunkhouse shows that bringing in old pieces and unique art actually can make a home more fun," Kay observes. "This particular mix of things says to guests, 'Come on in, kick off your shoes and relax,'"—just as a welcoming Western bunkhouse should.



"IF YOU'RE OPEN TO USING THINGS IN A DIFFERENT WAY, A FLEA MARKET CAN BE AN ABSOLUTE GOLD MINE."

Carter Kay

TOP: Kay tucked a simple wooden desk from Four Hands behind one side of the living room's sectional and added a fleecy pouf from Go Home for seating. The small wooden chairs and table are antiques. RIGHT: This bedroom plays with Western tropes, courtesy of white resin deer heads from online shop White Faux Taxidermy. Kay had the frames made from reclaimed barn wood to give the "art" a greater presence. The beds, from West Elm, are topped with coverlets by Utility Canvas and paired with a painted metal cabinet from Four Hands.

more For a guide to this home's products and pros, visit mountainliving.com/vintagevibe.

Made from recycled gears, a console by Vintage Studios is a rugged foil to the softness of the beds in the kids' bedroom. A local craftsman fashioned its wood top. A watercolor of a fly fisherman, purchased by one of the homeowners, feels right at home next to a vintage fly basket Kay found at Peachtree Battle Antiques in Atlanta.